

SAC, MEMPHIS (157-1067) (P)

1/15/70

SA WILLIAM H. LAWRENCE

Screened By: Martha
Murphy Date:
03-25-2013 DOCID:
59165381

INVADERS;
RACIAL MATTER

On 1/8/70, ME 338-R advised writer as follows:

The \$20 check recently referred to by informant as having been cashed on the personal account of Father WILLIAM GREENSPUN, St. Patrick's Church, drawn on the Tri-State Bank of Memphis, payable to MELVIN SMITH, was actually a good check. Informant checked with GREENSPUN and GREENSPUN certified that the check was written by him to MELVIN, and the check cleared through the Tri-State Bank. Informant added that a public relations director of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) in Atlanta has advised informant, on 1/7/70, that ERIC SEVERIED, news correspondent of the Columbia Broadcasting System, has contacted the Rev. RALPH DAVID ABERNATHY, President of SCLC in Atlanta, Georgia, with regard to ABERNATHY'S recent defense of the Black Panther Party, and that ABERNATHY had generally defended the Panthers, claiming that the U. S. Government was committing genocide against them; and he further stated that ABERNATHY was going to Washington, D. C. to organize a campaign among Congress, trying to make MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.'s birthday, January 15, a national holiday; and that thereafter, ABERNATHY was to go to North Carolina to look into the case involving discrimination against some Negro girl in that State.

157-166-912
Informant stated that SCLC is sponsoring a postcard campaign and a petition campaign directed to various Congressmen and Senators throughout the United States, insisting that they make MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.'s birthday a national holiday. Informant added that EDWIN CLIFTON SANDERS, II, a Memphis Negro, recently at Wesleyan University, Middletown, Connecticut, and former protege of Rev. JAMES MORRIS LAWSON, JR., and who about one year ago was active in Black Panther Party activities in the Connecticut area, and who is married to the daughter of prominent Memphis doctor, DR. JAMES BYAS, was recently back in

2-157-1067
1-170-70 sub
1-157-1230

①-157-166

1-157-WILLIAM GREENSPUN

1-157-106

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FBI - MEMPHIS

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1-66-1687 sub (a)

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Memphis over the holidays of Christmas, 1969, with his wife. SANDERS was dressed in conventional clothes, did no longer have his Afro hairstyle, and gave no indication that he is affiliated with the Panthers at this time.

The above information is being disseminated to the Intelligence Bureau, Memphis, Tennessee Police Department.